asked the Surgeon-General to prepare a memorandum on the composition and functions of these committees for circulation to members with a request that they should take an active interest in the administration of the hospitals.

(*b*) The Government propose to extend the system to the taluk headquarter hospitals recently provincialized.

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know why these advisory committees are not taking part in the administration of the hospitals ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" So far as I am aware, it is due to the indifference of some members who constitute the committees."

Mr. A. B. Shetty :—" May I know whether the Government propose to change the composition and revise the functions of these committees ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" If any suggestions are given in that direction, they will be considered."

UNSTARRED QUESTION

Labour

Strike in the Chittivalasa Jute Mills.

1787 Q.—Mr. P. C. Venkatapati Raju : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that workers numbering about 3,700 have struck work since 16th January last in the Chittivalasa Jute Mills Company, Ltd., Chittivalasa ;

(*b*) what the reasons for the strike are ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the police of Vizagapatam are interfering with the free movements of the strikers and are intimidating them to resume work ;

(*d*) whether the Government have received any communication on behalf of the strikers ; and

(*e*) if so, what steps the Government have taken in the matter ?

A.—A strike occurred in the Jute Mills at Chittivalasa on 17th January 1929 in which about 2,000 men were involved. The main cause of the trouble appears to have been the refusal of the management to give the workmen a bonus. The strike ended on 4th March 1929 and the workmen resumed work on 5th March 1929. A representation on behalf of the strikers was received from the Chittivalasa Labour Union but no complaint was made about police interference. Under instructions from Government the Commissioner of Labour went to Vizagapatam to look into the matter.